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Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN
Thirteenth session
New York, 17 January-4 February 1994

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

2. Report of the chairperson on the activities undertaken between the twelfth and the thirteenth sessions of the Committee.

3. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

4. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

5. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

6. Contributions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to international conferences.

7. Provisional agenda for the fourteenth session.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its thirteenth session.

ANNOTATIONS

Item 1

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women 1/ provides that the agenda shall be adopted by the

Committee at the beginning of its meetings. Rule 5 provides that the provisional agenda for each session shall be prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairperson, in conformity with the relevant provisions of articles 17-22 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex), giving priority to any item the inclusion of which was decided at a previous session of the Committee.

At its twelfth session, the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its thirteenth session. 2/

The Committee has, since its sixth session, set up two standing working groups: working group I, to consider and suggest ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee; and working group II, to consider ways and means of implementing article 21 of the Convention. At its seventh session, the Committee decided to keep the membership of the working groups flexible. 3/ At its eleventh session, the Committee decided that the working groups should be open only to members of the Committee, in accordance with past practice. Specialized agencies and other bodies that could make substantive contributions to items under consideration by a working group could be invited by the working group to contribute to its deliberations. 4/ The working groups will meet during the session.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (CEDAW/C/1994/1)

Item 2

The Committee, at its twelfth session, decided to include an item to permit the Chairperson to brief the Committee on activities and events that had a bearing on the Committee's work. Members requested to be informed about the results of investigations of alleged human rights violations in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, especially violations of human rights referring to women. On behalf of the Committee, the Chairperson attended the thirty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference on Human Rights, the World Conference on Human Rights and the meetings of chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies held during the Preparatory Committee and the World Conference on Human Rights.

Item 3

Article 18 of the Convention provides that States parties shall undertake to submit to the Secretary-General, for consideration by the Committee, a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures which they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of the Convention and on progress made in this respect. Reports are to be submitted within one year after the entry into force for the State concerned and thereafter at least every four years and further whenever the Committee so requests.

At its twelfth session, the Committee decided to consider at its thirteenth session a total of six initial reports, six second periodic reports and two

third periodic reports, based on the criteria of order of receipt, geographical representation at a given session, and interest expressed by Governments. The reserve list of countries that were to present reports, in the event that any of those selected decided not to present their reports, should consist of all other States parties whose reports were pending, in order of their receipt. 5/ The Committee decided to set 1 September 1993 as the formal deadline by which a State party that had been selected by the Committee to present its report at the thirteenth session should give its agreement in writing, preferably by fax. Any additional written information to be given to the Committee should also be provided not later than 1 September 1993. 6/

The Committee also decided that States parties should be offered the opportunity to provide a revised or new report in place of the report(s) already submitted, if the national situation had changed sufficiently to warrant the substitution. If a substitution were made, the Committee would only review the revised or new report and would disregard the report indicated by the State party to be outdated. 7/

At its thirteenth session, the Committee will have before it reports submitted by 13 States parties, based on consultations by the Secretary-General with the States parties concerned. The reports are as follows: for Australia, the second periodic report (CEDAW/C/AUL/2); for Barbados, the second and third periodic reports combined* (CEDAW/C/BAR/2-3); for Colombia, the second and third periodic reports combined (CEDAW/C/COL/2-3/Rev.1); for Ecuador, the second periodic report (CEDAW/C/13/Add.31) and third periodic report (CEDAW/C/ECU/3); for Guatemala, the initial and second periodic reports combined (CEDAW/C/GUA/1-2); for Guyana, the initial report (CEDAW/C/5/Add.63); for Japan, the second periodic report (CEDAW/C/JPN/2) and the third periodic report (CEDAW/C/JPN/3); for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the initial report (CEDAW/C/LIB/1/Add.1); for Madagascar, the initial report (CEDAW/C/5/Add.65/Rev.2); for the Netherlands, the initial report (CEDAW/C/NET/1 and Add.1-3); for New Zealand, the second periodic report (CEDAW/C/NZE/2 and Add.1); for Senegal, the second periodic report (CEDAW/C/SEN/2); and for Zambia, the initial and second periodic reports combined (CEDAW/C/ZAM/1-2).

A tentative timetable listing the time at which each report of a State party is scheduled for consideration by the Committee is annexed to the present document.

Rule 49 of the rules of procedure provides that representatives of States parties shall be present at meetings of the Committee when the State's report is being examined and shall participate in discussions and answer questions concerning the report. The Secretary-General has informed the States parties

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* At its tenth session, the Committee decided that, if States parties whose reports were overdue by the conclusion of that session so wished, they could each submit a combined report to the Committee and that such reports should be numbered by the Secretariat in a way that facilitated their identification (Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/46/38), para. 370).

concerned of the tentative dates on which their reports are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its thirteenth session.

Rule 47 of the rules of procedure provides that at each session the Secretary-General shall notify the Committee on the non-receipt of any report required from a State party under article 18 of the Convention. The Secretary-General also provides the Committee with a list of reports submitted by States parties to the Convention that have not yet been considered by the Committee. The Committee at its thirteenth session will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/1994/2).

The Committee decided that a pre-session working group should be convened before each session to prepare issues and questions relating to second and subsequent periodic reports for transmission to the representatives of States parties before the meetings at which their reports were scheduled to be discussed. The pre-session working group for the thirteenth session is scheduled to meet in New York from 10 to 14 January 1994.

In the light of its previous work on violence against women, reflected in its general recommendation 19 and in accordance with article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Committee decided to request the States of the territory of the former Yugoslavia to submit a report on an exceptional basis in respect to the situation of women now coming under their jurisdiction. 8/ The Committee will have before it the reports of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/1994/2)

Second periodic report of Australia (CEDAW/C/AUL/2)

Combined second and third periodic reports of Barbados (CEDAW/C/BAR/2-3)

Combined second and third periodic reports of Colombia (CEDAW/C/COL/2-3/Rev.1)

Second periodic report of Ecuador (CEDAW/C/13/Add.31)

Third periodic report of Ecuador (CEDAW/C/ECU/3)

Combined initial and second periodic reports of Guatemala (CEDAW/C/GUA/1-2)

Initial report of Guyana (CEDAW/C/5/Add.63)

Second periodic report of Japan (CEDAW/C/JPN/2)

Third periodic report of Japan (CEDAW/C/JPN/3)

Initial report of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (CEDAW/C/LIB/1/Add.1)

Initial report of Madagascar (CEDAW/C/5/Add.65/Rev.2)

Initial report of the Netherlands (CEDAW/C/NET/1 and Add.1-3)

Second periodic report of New Zealand (CEDAW/C/NZE/2 and Add.1)

Second periodic report of Senegal (CEDAW/C/SEN/2)

Combined initial and second periodic reports of Zambia (CEDAW/C/ZAM/1-2)

Reports of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Item 4

Article 21 of the Convention provides that the Committee may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from States parties. It also provides that such suggestions and general recommendations shall be included in the report of the Committee together with comments, if any, from States parties. Rule 48 of the rules of procedure provides that suggestions and general recommendations made by the Committee based on the examination of reports received from States parties under article 18 of the Convention shall be communicated by the Committee, through the Secretary-General, to the States parties for their comments.

Article 22 of the Convention provides that the specialized agencies shall be entitled to be represented at the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the Convention as fall within the scope of their activities and that the Committee may invite the specialized agencies to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities. The Committee at its thirteenth session will have before it a note by the Secretary-General on reports by specialized agencies on that subject (CEDAW/C/1994/3 and Add.1-4).

At its tenth session, the Committee decided to provide, under the item of its agenda entitled "Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", opportunities for specialists from the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations to present to the Committee, in plenary, information related to specific articles of the Convention or to issues being considered for general recommendations and suggestions. 9/

At the same session, the Committee decided to select and to review specific articles and other issues to be considered at subsequent sessions as a long-term programme, without prejudice to any changes that might be necessary as a result of new developments and priorities arising from the review of the reports of States parties. 10/

The Committee, at its tenth session, also decided that it should prepare comments on particular articles of the Convention, which would assist in the

formulation of the Committee's recommendations relating to those articles. 11/ At its eleventh session, the Committee decided that all pending and newly tabled recommendations, as well as the comments of working group II on article 6, would be included as part of the general comments on individual articles of the Convention. 12/

The Committee, at its tenth session 13/ and its eleventh session, 14/ decided that it would examine at its twelfth session articles 9, 15 and 16, i.e. articles of the Convention related to the family in preparation for the International Year of the Family to be observed in 1994, and at its thirteenth session articles 7 and 8 of the Convention. At its twelfth session, the Committee agreed to begin with the preparation of a general recommendation on article 4 and to analyse article 2 of the Convention, including reservations which have been made to it, at its fourteenth session to be held in 1995. 15/ At its twelfth session, the Committee prepared and adopted the substance of the draft general recommendation on article 16 and related articles of the Convention with the agreement that three specified additions would be included in the final draft. The Committee further decided that the draft general recommendation shall be placed on the provisional agenda of the thirteenth session for its final approval without further discussion. 16/ For its analysis of articles 7 and 8, the Committee will have before it the report of the Secretariat (CEDAW/C/1994/4).

The Committee, at its tenth session, requested the Secretariat to prepare for each session of the Committee, for its information, a report on the implications for its work of the priority themes prepared, or under preparation, for the consideration of the Commission on the Status of Women. 17/ The Committee at its thirteenth session will have before it a report of the Secretariat on that subject (CEDAW/C/1994/5).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on reports provided by specialized agencies of the United Nations on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities (CEDAW/C/1994/3).

Addenda to the note by the Secretary-General on reports provided by specialized agencies of the United Nations on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities, report by the World Health Organization (CEDAW/C/1994/3/Add.1), report by the International Labour Organization (CEDAW/C/1994/3/Add.2), report by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (CEDAW/C/1994/3/Add.3) and report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (CEDAW/C/1994/3/Add.4)

Report of the Secretariat for the analysis of articles 7 and 8 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/1994/4)

Report of the Secretariat on the implications for the work of the Committee of the priority themes of the Commission on the Status of Women (CEDAW/C/1994/5)

Item 5

The Committee, at its twelfth session, decided that the Secretariat should prepare every year, as a pre-session document, a report on ways and means of improving the work of the Committee, containing information of the Secretariat, comments made by members to the Secretariat, or developments elsewhere in the human rights regime. 18/ In its suggestion 4, addressed to the World Conference on Human Rights (1993), the Committee recommended a number of actions which are directed at improving the effectiveness of its work. 19/ The Committee also decided to review at its twelfth session its rules of procedure which had been drafted in 1981 and adopted at the Committee's first session. 20/ The Committee will have before it, at its thirteenth session, a report of the Secretariat on ways and means of improving the work of the Committee (CEDAW/C/1994/6).

Documentation

Report of the Secretariat on ways and means of improving the work of the Committee (CEDAW/C/1994/6)

Item 6

The Committee's contribution to the International Year of the Family (1994) will be its general recommendation 21 (thirteenth session) on equality in marriage and family relations as decided at its eleventh session. 21/

With regard to the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Committee decided at its tenth session that its contribution should, inter alia, place emphasis on the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women* and their links with the articles of the Convention. 22/

At its twelfth session, the Committee requested the Secretariat to provide it, for its review at its thirteenth session, with an outline of the draft of the updated compendium** on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; it further requested that the draft compendium should be presented to it at its fourteenth session, so that its comments could be included in the final version. 23/

The Committee will have before it, at its thirteenth session, the requested outline (CEDAW/C/1994/7).

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* Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

** The first compendium was prepared by the Secretariat for the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the achievements of and obstacles encountered by States parties in the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/CONF.116/13).

The Committee, at its twelfth session, also decided to prepare a special recommendation at its thirteenth session as a contribution to the International Conference on Population and Development (1994). The Secretariat should provide members of the Committee with information about the preparations for that Conference, if possible, in advance. 24/

The Committee also requested the Secretariat for information on the preparations for the World Summit for Social Development in order to prepare an appropriate contribution at its thirteenth or fourteenth session. 25/

Documentation

Outline of the draft of the updated compendium on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/1994/7)

Item 7

At its tenth session, the Committee decided that the draft provisional agenda for the following session of the Committee would be approved at the end of each session. 26/ It also decided 27/ that at each session:

(a) It would set a programme for the following two or three sessions, which could be revised and amended at each subsequent session;

(b) It would select one or more articles or subjects for study;

(c) The Secretariat would prepare a background report as a pre-session document to be considered by the Committee during its examination of the articles or subjects concerned.

Documentation

Draft provisional agenda for the fourteenth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Item 8

Under article 21 of the Convention, the Committee, shall, through the Economic and Social Council, report annually to the General Assembly on its activities.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/38/45), annex III.

2/ See "Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (twelfth session)" (A/48/38), chap. VIII, para. 650. The report will be issued subsequently as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/48/38).

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/43/38), chap. II, sect. A, para. 26.

4/ Ibid., Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/47/38), chap. II, sect. I, para. 24.

5/ See "Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (twelfth session) ...", para. 624.

6/ Ibid., para. 628.

7/ Ibid., para. 630.

8/ Ibid., pp. 9-10.

9/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/46/38), para. 373.

10/ Ibid., para. 375.

11/ Ibid., para. 380.

12/ Ibid., Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/47/38), para. 465.

13/ Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/46/38), paras. 381-382.

14/ Ibid., Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/47/38), para. 466.

15/ See "Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (twelfth session) ...", paras. 646 and 647.

16/ Ibid., para. 640.

17/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/46/38), para. 376.

18/ "Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (twelfth session) ...", para. 632.

19/ Ibid., p. 6.

20/ Ibid., para. 633.

21/ Ibid., para. 594.

22/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/46/38), chap. III, sect. B, paras. 34-38.

23/ "Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (twelfth session) ...", para. 595.

24/ Ibid., para. 597.

25/ Ibid., para. 599.

26/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/46/38), para. 369.

27/ Ibid., paras. 381-382.

Annex

TENTATIVE TIMETABLE FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF STATES PARTIES BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AT ITS THIRTEENTH SESSION

State party	Report(s)	Document number	Date
Netherlands	Initial	CEDAW/C/NET/1 and Add.1-3	Monday, 17 January 1994 (afternoon) Thursday, 20 January 1994 (afternoon)
Guyana	Initial	CEDAW/C/5/Add.63	Tuesday, 18 January 1994 (morning) Thursday, 20 January 1994 (afternoon)
Madagascar	Initial	CEDAW/C/5/Add.65/ Rev.2	Tuesday, 18 January 1994 (afternoon) Friday, 21 January 1994 (morning)
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Initial	CEDAW/C/LIB/1/ Add.1	Wednesday, 19 January 1994 (morning) Friday, 21 January 1994 (morning)
Zambia	Combined initial and second periodic	CEDAW/C/ZAM/1-2	Monday, 24 January 1994 (morning) Wednesday, 26 January 1994 (afternoon)
Guatemala	Combined initial and second periodic	CEDAW/C/GUA/1-2	Monday, 24 January 1994 (afternoon) Wednesday, 26 January 1994 (afternoon)
New Zealand	Second periodic	CEDAW/C/NZE/2 and Add.1	Tuesday, 25 January 1994 (morning)
Ecuador	Second periodic and third periodic together	CEDAW/C/13/Add.31 and CEDAW/C/ECU/3	Tuesday, 25 January 1994 (afternoon)
Barbados	Combined second and third periodic	CEDAW/C/BAR/2-3	Wednesday, 26 January 1994 (morning)

State party	Report(s)	Document number	Date
Senegal	Second periodic	CEDAW/C/SEN/2	Thursday, 27 January 1994 (morning)
Japan	Second periodic and third periodic together	CEDAW/C/JPN/2 and CEDAW/C/JPN/3	Thursday, 27 January 1994 (afternoon)
Colombia	Combined second and third periodic	CEDAW/C/COL/ 2-3/Rev.1	Monday, 31 January 1994 (morning)
Australia	Second periodic	CEDAW/C/AUL/2	Monday, 31 January 1994 (afternoon)